

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. When will the Commissioners be appointed?

The White House is expected to announce the appointment of the Commissioners before the end of calendar year 1997.

### 2. When will the Commission hold its first meeting?

The first Commission meeting will likely occur within two to four weeks following its appointment.

### 3. What is a National Recreation Lake?

This is one of the questions that the Commissioners have been tasked by the Congress to answer.

### 4. What kind of recreation activity will be highlighted?

Water related outdoor recreation activities will be addressed. Some examples of those types of recreation are: fishing, boating, picnicking, camping, swimming, water skiing, sailing, sightseeing, hunting, hiking, watching wildlife, cross country skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and the use of personal watercraft.

### 5. Why are lakes being studied for their recreation potential?

Water is a magnet for recreation in America. Our Nation's lakes have become the number one drawing card for millions of Americans seeking fun and relaxation. Almost 80% of the lakes are within 50 miles of a major metropolitan area. Forty-six percent of the freshwater fishing (excluding the Great Lakes) takes place on federally-managed, man-made lakes and reservoirs. Lakes not only enhance our quality of life, but also are the driving economic force and the anchor of the tourism industry in many communities. The economic impact associated with recreation at the 1,796 federally-managed, man-made lakes and reservoirs is \$44 billion annually. Lakes provide the necessary focus for water quality improvement and habitat protection efforts. The National Recreation Lakes Study reflects an awareness of current conditions and responds to a growing interest in maximizing recreational use of the man-made lakes and reservoirs managed by the Federal Government.

### 6. What are some of the issues the study will review?

Public Law 104-333 directed that the report review the extent of water related recreation at Federal man-made lakes and reservoirs and develop alternatives to enhance the opportunities for use by the public. In developing the report, the Commission shall--

- (1) determine whether the recreation components authorized by law at individual Federal

man-made lakes and reservoirs have been provided;

(2) evaluate the feasibility of enhancing recreation opportunities under existing statutes at federally-managed lakes and reservoirs;

(3) recommend legislative changes that would enhance recreation opportunities without adversely impacting the Congressionally authorized purposes of Federal water projects; and

(4) recommend alternatives for enhanced recreation opportunities including, but not limited to, the establishment of a National Recreation Lake System under which specific lakes would receive national designation and be managed through innovative partnership-based agreements between Federal agencies, State and local units of government, and the private sector.

Any recommended alternatives will be consistent with and subject to the Congressionally authorized purposes for any manmade lakes and reservoirs and will emphasize private sector initiatives in concert with State and local units of government.

7. How long will the study last and when will a report be completed?

The study will conclude with a published report no later than twelve months following the appointment of the Commission.

8. How many Federally-managed, man-made lakes and reservoirs are there?

There are 1,796 federally-managed, man-made lakes and reservoirs located in 47 States. Only the states of Delaware, Hawaii and Rhode Island do not have federally-managed, man-made lakes and reservoirs. The State by State breakdown is as follows:

State	No. Lakes	State	No. Lakes	State	No. Lakes	State	No. Lakes
AK	16	ID	25	MT	74	RI	0
AL	25	IL	33	NC	37	SC	25
AR	39	IN	22	ND	45	SD	51
AZ	55	KS	26	NE	31	TN	49
CA	148	KY	62	NH	9	TX	54
CO	108	LA	18	NJ	18	UT	38
CT	7	MA	8	NM	67	VA	47
DC	0	MD	11	NV	21	VT	5

DE	0	ME	5	NY	21	WA	43
FL	13	MI	16	OH	32	WI	47
GA	40	MN	69	OK	74	WV	26
HI	0	MO	33	OR	69	WY	43
IA	17	MS	19	PA	55		

9. How many lakes are managed by each Federal agency/bureau?

The agency breakdown is as follows:

Agency/Bureau	No. Lakes/Reservoirs
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Bureau of Reclamation	285
Bureau of Land Management	2
Corps of Engineers	542
Fish and Wildlife Service	138
Forest Service	268
National Park Service	91
Tennessee Valley Authority	54
Bureau of Indian Affairs	152
U.S. Army	178
U.S. Air Force	31
U.S. Navy (includes Marine Corps)	35
Other	20

10. Will this study mean that more dollars will be spent on lake recreation activities?

The intent of this study is to identify opportunities for the development of public/private partnerships which will allow for greater investments in developing and maintaining recreation facilities and other visitor amenities.

11. How will this study benefit the American public?

In addition to examining ideas and recommendations for increasing recreation access and facilities, the Commission will also consider the viability of private interest development of marinas, lodging, nature centers, visitor centers, golf courses and other public recreation opportunities at federally-managed, man-made lakes and reservoirs. Some of the Commission's recommendations may be implemented through adoption of new agency policies, while others may require enactment of Congressional legislation. The study will address protection of the unique environments surrounding Federal lakes and reservoirs.

12. Will greater emphasis on recreation use of Federal lakes mean other uses of water will be diminished?

No, absolutely no, as most activities are compatible with other uses of water.

13. How do I find out where I can go to boat and fish, etc.?

The National Recreation Lakes Study is not a clearing house for identifying all the recreation opportunities on lakes across the nation. You can however, call the toll-free number, 1-800-ASK-FISH (1-800-275-3474) to obtain information on fishing. For information on recreation opportunities provided by Federal agencies, proceed to the LINKS page and click on the individual agency logos. In the spring of 1998, the Forest Service and the Corps of Engineers plan to implement a joint National Recreation Reservation Service. This service will be available via a toll-free number and users will be able to make reservations for any Forest Service or Corps of Engineers managed campgrounds across the United States. Additional information about the reservation service is available at [www.fs.fed.us/recreation/nrrsovw.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/nrrsovw.html).